

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

In accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General laws, Chapter 30A, Section 20, notice is hereby given for the following meeting of the:

***Arlington School Committee
School Committee Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2015
6:00 PM***

Facilities Subcommittee

*Arlington High School
School Committee Room
869 Mass Avenue, 6th Floor
Arlington, MA 02476*

Open Meeting

Continue discussion on enrollment task force

Public Participation

Adjournment

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair; which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Stated times and time amounts, listed in parenthesis, are the estimated amount of time for that particular agenda item. Actual times may be shorter or longer depending on the time needed to fully explore the topic.

Submitted by Cindy Starks Subcommittee Chair



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

Continue discussion on enrollment task force

ATTACHMENTS:

Type	File Name	Description
▢ Correspondence	Thompson_School_Enrollment_Growth_2014- _Dec_2015.xlsx	Thompson School Enrollment growth 12 2015
▢ Correspondence	FacilitiesCommitteeProposalDec2015.docx	Memo to Facilities Subcommittee Dec 2015

Grade Level	October 2014	June 2015	October 2015	December 2015	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
K	81	82	82	82	4	20.5
1	69	70	81	83	4	20.75
2	81	80	73	73	3	24.3
3	50	51	81	84	4	22
4	55	55	49	49	2	24.5
5	56	56	59	59	2	29.5
Total In School	392	394	425	430		

If no extra space in 2016			If no extra space in 2017		
	4	20.5		4	20.5
	4	20.75		3	27/28
	3	20.75		3	27/28
	3	27.6		3	27/28
	3	28		3	27/28
	2	24.5		3	27/29
19 rooms					
OR ART ROOM REMOVED			According to projections:		
AND ONE EXTRA LG CLASS			Add 30 more kids into these classes		

THOMPSON**Grade Level****K****1****2****3****4****5****Total In School**

December 2015 (from school)	2015-2016 McKibben F	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
82	92	4	20.5
83	89	4	20.8
73	64	3	24.3
84	80	4	21.0
49	51	2	24.5
59	57	2	29.5
430	433	19	23.4

Actual vs Predicted: -3

% accuracy: actual vs. predicted: 99.30%

HARDY**Grade Level****K****1****2****3****4****5****Total In School**

2015/2016	2015-2016 McKibben F	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
86	89	4	21.5
81	86	4	20.3
67	70	3	22.3
62	67	3	20.7
71	65	3	23.7
48	45	2	24.0
415	422	19	22.1

Actual vs Predicted: -7

% accuracy: actual vs. predicted: 98.31%

Bishop**Grade Level****K****1****2**

2015/2016	2015-2016 McKibben F	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
68	70	3	22.7
73	71	3	24.3
72	73	3	24.0

3	67	71	3	22.3
4	77	77	3	25.7
5	68	71	3	22.7
Total In School	425	433	18	23.6
Actual vs Predicted:			-8	
% accuracy: actual vs. predicted:			98.12%	

Brackett	2015/2016	2015-2016 McKibben P	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
Grade Level				
K	71	101	3	23.7
1	90	102	4	22.5
2	80	81	4	20.0
3	60	69	3	20.0
4	80	93	4	20.0
5	84	85	4	21.0
Total In School	465	531	22	21.2
Actual vs Predicted:			-66	
% accuracy: actual vs. predicted:			85.81%	

Dallin	2015/2016	2015-2016 McKibben P	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
Grade Level				
K	58	78	3	19.3
1	70	76	3	23.3
2	76	79	4	19.0
3	67	65	3	22.3
4	74	77	3	24.7
5	94	87	4	23.5
Total In School	439	462	20	22.0
Actual vs Predicted:			-23	
% accuracy: actual vs. predicted:			94.76%	

Peirce	2015/2016	2015-2016 McKibben P	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
Grade Level				
K	42	44	2	21.0
1	43	46	2	21.5

2	44	41	2	22.0
3	46	42	2	23.0
4	48	56	2	24.0
5	39	42	2	19.5
Total In School	262	271	12	21.8
Actual vs Predicted:			-9	
% accuracy: actual vs. predicted:			96.56%	

Stratton	2015/2016	2015-2016 McKibben F	Current # Sections	Average Per Class
Grade Level				
K	63	74	3	21.0
1	62	70	3	20.7
2	62	71	3	20.7
3	67	70	3	22.3
4	62	71	3	20.7
5	58	67	3	19.3
Total In School	374	423	18	20.8
Actual vs Predicted:			-49	
% accuracy: actual vs. predicted:			86.90%	

TOTAL DISTRICT	2810	2975	128
Actual vs Predicted			-165
% accuracy: actual vs. predicted			94.13%

THOMPSON, HARDY, BISHOP	1270	1288	56
Actual vs Predicted			-18
% accuracy: actual vs. predicted			98.58%

If no extra space in 2016

If no extra space in 2017

2016-2017 McKibben	# Sections	Average Per Class	2017-2018 McKibben	# Sections	Average Per Class
88	4	22	85	4	21
95	4	24	91	3	30
84	3	28	89	3	30
62	3	21	81	3	27
81	3	27	63	3	21
53	2	27	83	3	28
463	19	25	492	19	26

If no extra space in 2016

If no extra space in 2017

2016-2017 McKibben	# Sections	Average Per Class	2017-2018 McKibben	# Sections	Average Per Class
85	4	21	83	4	21
93	4	23	89	4	22
87	4	22	94	4	24
69	3	23	85	3	28
64	3	21	66	3	22
63	3	21	62	3	21
461	21	22	479	21	23

If no extra space in 2016

If no extra space in 2017

2016-2017 McKibben	# Sections	Average Per Class	2017-2018 McKibben	# Sections	Average Per Class
68	3	23	65	3	22
75	3	25	73	3	24
72	3	24	76	3	25

76	3	25	75	3	25
72	3	24	77	3	26
76	3	25	71	3	24
439	18	24	437	18	24

December 16, 2015

Dear Facilities Subcommittee Members,

As we are all aware, there is a very large space issue threatening our public schools in Arlington. Class sizes are growing, special-use classrooms are being diminished, and our walls are bulging at the seams. This is happening extremely fast, and we are finding ourselves running to catch up. There are many town-wide decisions that need to be made very quickly, in order to ensure that the quality of education in our town is not lost, even for a few days. There are many adults involved in this process, and many children counting on these adults to give them the education they deserve.

While many of the schools are experiencing this space crunch, it is the Thompson School that is getting hit the hardest all around. Our school that opened two years ago for 380 students already has 430, and counting. The two fifth grade classes have 29 and 30 students because we did not have another classroom for a third section. These same students are having to double up on gym classes, as the gym can not hold as many sections as is required per week. The capacity of our gym is 300, so trying to have an all-school assembly, or concert, or community event, puts our students at risk and is impossible. These are only a few examples of how overcrowding affects us now.

The year 2015 is coming to an end, and we are rapidly moving into 2016. As we look ahead, we see two sections of fifth grade graduating in May, and four sections of Kindergarten coming in. This puts us two classrooms short. Numbers indicate that we will experience the same trend the following year, thus leaving us four classrooms short. Possibly more as we see the need for extra sections as enrollment increases.

As concerned Thompson parents, we urge you to address our crowding issues before the Special Town Meeting on January 25th. Funding for more space at our school is crucial to ensuring the Thompson students are getting the same quality of education that the students within the other Arlington schools are receiving. **We urge you to move forward with a proposal to add a permanent addition to Thompson.**

There have been many discussions as to what an addition to Thompson should look like, including adding six classrooms off the end of the building towards N. Union Street. We agree with this concept, in part, and know that a permanent addition now is better than spending money on years of portable spaces. However, while the addition of these six classrooms is critical, **it is equally important that we add common space to the school to support the escalating growth of its student body.** We envision a large, flexible, multi-purpose space connected to the school, that could function as a large space, or could be divided into smaller spaces for breakout rooms and activities. It would provide a place where our entire student body could safely gather, and give our school more options for enrichment activities and divided gym classes.

Possible ideas for this flexible space are:

1. Build off the cafeteria towards the playgrounds. The smallest playground does not get used during the school day, so a space could be added here that could have a flexible wall into the cafeteria providing enrichment space, extra space for gym activities and the option to open up into the cafeteria for all-school events.
2. Build off the cafeteria, but have this space be the new music room. Then the space on the stage (the current music room) could be used for gym activities, enrichment, etc.
3. Build onto the gym on the Everett side of the street. Not towards the street, but towards the parking lot. This would require reconfiguring the entrance into the school.
4. Could the gym and cafeteria space we currently have, somehow become connected with a moveable wall in between?
5. If six classrooms are added, could one be used as a music room? Then the current music space could be reconfigured to provide extra gym and activity space. Though this still does not give us a space for the whole student body to come together.

We would like to ask you to seriously consider the following timeline for the Thompson School.

Fall of 2016:

Two temporary modular classrooms

Begin permanent construction of six classrooms and multi-purpose space

Fall of 2017:

Completion of permanent classrooms and removal of modular classes.

Fall of 2018

Completion of Community/Flexible space

If we do not receive the two extra classrooms for the fall of 2016, and we are told to “get by” for one year, our students will have to endure the following:

1. One grade will have to be consolidated into one less class. This will make our class numbers soar.
2. Our art room will get taken away and the art teachers will be required to store their materials in a closet, and move around from room to room to provide art class. We will be unable to use the kiln.
3. More classes will be required to double-up on gym class.
4. School assemblies, concerts, plays, etc., will have to be split up, and the school will need to be divided in order to attend. This takes away from the community aspect and feel of the school.

There are many long-term benefits to adding a permanent addition to the Thompson School and it will be money well spent for the town. By adding onto Thompson, you are not only ensuring that the quality of education is maintained for the Thompson students, but for the entire district. Adding on to Thompson can also relieve the burden on the Hardy School, and down the road, possibly the Bishop School. These three schools are the schools with the most immediate need in the district, and this one addition may address all of their upcoming space issues.

When looking at the McKibben report of enrollment, his projections are 100 students down in the elementary schools for this year. If you break this down and look at each school, you will see that his projections for Thompson and Hardy and Bishop, however, are accurate. His projection for Thompson this year was 433 and as of this week we have 430. His projection for Hardy was 422 and as of October they have 416 and Bishop is at 425 of his 433 projection. The largest growth, across the district, will be at Thompson and Hardy.

In the McKibbens report, his projections for the next five years are that the Dallin, Stratton, Bishop and Pierce schools will see a **combined** growth of **137 students**. If you look at the 5-year projections for the Thompson and Hardy schools, there is a **combined** growth of **228 students**.

(see attached google sheet of school growth)

Not only do Thompson and Hardy grow the most over the next five years, their numbers do not drop down as significantly as the other schools when you look at the 10-year projections. Thompson, at its highest, is projected to reach 502. After the 10 year span, it is projected to be at 442. The Hardy school is projected to grow to 505, and then stay at 472 after 10 years. With this amount of growth in E. Arlington, a permanent addition at Thompson will ensure that our schools have the space they need in the long-term.

There has been talk about adding a school in our district that would house all fifth and sixth graders in the town, in order to alleviate the need for adding onto every elementary school. This is an excellent, long-term idea, that would be amazing to see come to fruition in the next five or six years. For the Thompson School (and the rest of E. Arlington), however, we can not wait five or six years, and even if you remove the fifth graders from our building, we are still one classroom short. So regardless of the plan for a long-term adjustment in our district, more space at Thompson will still be needed, both now and then.

We invite you to come to our school. Peek into the 5th grade classes which are full of 30 students, and whose materials do not fit into their desks and cubbies. Come and see the space by the stairwells where you propose the art teachers keep their supplies. Come see how they are already overflowing with the storage for the afterschool program, snack/EATS program, and storage for the support staff that have already lost their rooms. Come and see our gym, and note the capacity sign on the door. You can also experience the walkways and hallways around the school as students, teachers and parents try to maneuver around each other.

A smart building addition on Thompson is vital for ensuring our students have the same quality of education that the other students in the district are receiving. It is an addition that can have long-term, positive effects for E. Arlington and the district, and that could solve many district-wide problems.

Thank you for all of the time and hard work you put into our schools, and for seriously looking at the whole picture at Thompson. We appreciate what you are doing, and marvel at your hard

work. We anticipate your enthusiastic support for a smart, sensible and fair solution for the Thompson School, which will concurrently help alleviate escalating overcrowding in Arlington.

Sincerely,
The Thompson Elementary Overcrowding Steering Committee

cc: Dr. Kathleen Bodie

McKibben vs. Actual Student Data

(<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/17i-Grk-rK74r4mkjmBXBBMAsHa3Z7qshF27jUPFABKo/edit?usp=sharing>)

Thompson				
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Hardy				
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Dallin				
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2	76	79	4	19.0
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Stratton				
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